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COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Members of Armed Forces Praised

Sec. Packard Cites Progress of Defense Programs

New approaches and progress of Department of Defense programs since early this year, young Americans in today's society, universities and ROTC programs highlighted a speech by Deputy Secretary of Defense David Packard, Sept. 17.

He spoke at the Citizenship Day Dinner sponsored by Loyola University, Los Angeles, Calif.

Secretary Packard noted that subjects covered in his speech were appropriate to the occasion—the 182nd anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the United States.

He said, "It is well to remember that the spark and the energy of the second American Revolution, which gave our nation its Constitution, came from younger men dissatisfied with the *status quo*."

Following is the continuation of Secretary Packard's speech:

Nor should it be forgotten that national defense needs had much to do with the bold decisions made in the Constitutional Convention.

In fact, the only aspect of this talk that may be inappropriate is that I should be the one to talk about youth. I confess that I speak from the far side of the generation gap. Although, as the years go by, I find some comfort in the French proverb that the fifties are the youth of old age, I cannot honestly claim any relationship to youth beyond that of a spectator. Nevertheless, I have had a good vantage point for my observation of youth, both as a former university trustee and as Deputy Secretary of Defense.

Today's youth want to change the world—and to do it in a hurry. They are dissatisfied with much of what their elders are bequeathing to them. They are impatient to rid the society of evil and injustice, to establish peace, eliminate slums, end poverty, uproot racial and ethnic discrimination, cure disease, abolish ignorance, terminate pollution, and to strike down hundreds of other wrongs.

The impulses are generally noble, and the commitment to the well-being of their fellow man is admirable. Though they will not achieve all they hope to do, they will remove many of the blemishes of the social and political order which have been tolerated for too long. Some are over

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DoD Issues Guidance For Handling Dissident, Protest Activities

The Department of Defense has issued a directive providing general guidance for handling dissident and protest activities by members of the Armed Forces.

The directive states, "The service member's right of expression should be preserved to the maximum extent possible, consistent with good order and discipline and the national security. On the other hand, no commander should be indifferent to conduct which, if allowed to proceed unchecked, would destroy the effectiveness of his unit. The proper balancing of these interests will depend largely upon the calm and prudent judgment of the responsible commander."

Roger T. Kelley, Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), said, "This directive gives him rather important license in terms of judging whether individual situations do or do not interfere with his ability to carry out his mission."

Mr. Kelley said that guidance from the Defense level was necessary because of a "good deal of confusion" caused by the news prominence of protests and dissident activities, as well as the allegation that one Service was tougher on protest activity than another because of different interpretations of current instructions.

He said the directive does not change present policy regulations. "This is a single writing which binds all the Services in lieu of separate . . . directives issued by individual Services."

The Defense directive (1325.6) states that specific problems "can be resolved only on the basis of the particular facts of the situation," but guidelines are offered for these principal activities which the Armed Forces have encountered:

Possession and Distribution of Printed Materials

1—A Commander is not authorized to prohibit the distribution of a specific issue of a publication distributed through official outlets such as post exchanges and military libraries. In the case of distribution of publications

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Guidance Issued For Handling Dissident, Protest Activities

(Continued from Page 1)

through other than official outlets, a Commander may require that prior approval be obtained for any distribution on a military installation in order that he may determine whether there is a clear danger to the loyalty, discipline, or morale of military personnel, or if the distribution of the publication would materially interfere with the accomplishment of a military mission. When he makes such a determination, the distribution will be prohibited.

2—While the mere possession of unauthorized printed material may not be prohibited, printed material which is prohibited from distribution shall be impounded if the Commander determines that an attempt will be made to distribute.

3—The fact that a publication is critical of Government policies or officials is not, in itself, a ground upon which distribution may be prohibited.

Off-Post Gathering Places

Commanders have the authority to place establishments "off-limits," in accordance with established procedures, when, for example, the activities taking place there, including counselling members to refuse to perform duty or to desert, involve acts with a significant adverse effect on members' health, morale, or welfare.

Servicemen's Organizations

Commanders are not authorized to recognize or to bargain with a so-called "servicemen's union."

Publication of "Underground Newspapers"

Personal writing for publication may not be pursued during duty hours, or accomplished by the use of Government or non-appropriated fund property. While publication of "underground newspapers" by military personnel off-post, on their own time and with their own money and equipment, is not prohibited, if such a publication contains language the utterance of which is punishable under Federal law, those involved in the printing, publication, or distribution may be disciplined for such infractions.

On-Post Demonstrations and Similar Activities

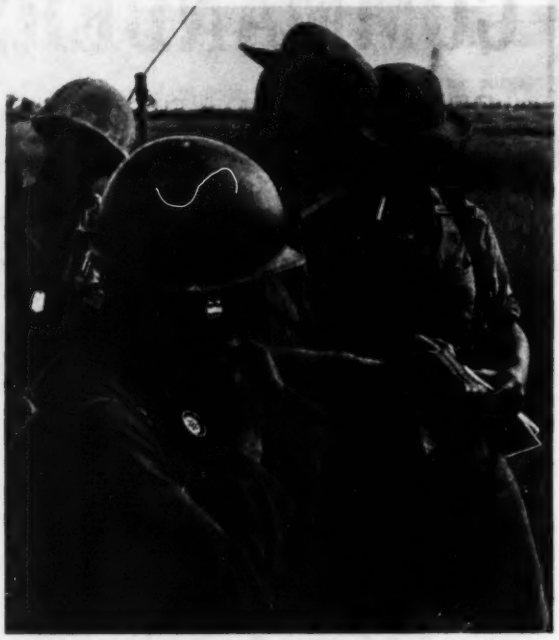
The Commander of a military installation shall prohibit any demonstration or activity on the installation which could result in interference with or prevention of orderly accomplishment of the mission of the installation, or present a clear danger to loyalty, discipline, or morale of the troops. It is a crime for any person to enter a military reservation for any purpose prohibited by law or lawful regulations, or for any person to enter or re-enter an installation after having been barred by order of the Commander (18 U.S.C. 1382).

Off-Post Demonstrations by Members

Members of the Armed Forces are prohibited from participating in off-post demonstrations when they are on duty, or in a foreign country, or when their activities constitute a breach of law and order, or when violence is likely to result, or when they are in uniform in violation of DoD Directive 1334.1 (reference (e)).

Grievances

The right of members to complain and request redress of grievances against actions of their commanders is protected by Article 138 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. In addition, a member may petition or present any grievance to any member of Congress (10 U.S.C. 1034). An open door policy for complaints is a basic principle of good leadership, and Commanders should personally assure themselves that adequate procedures exist for identifying valid complaints and taking corrective action.



ADVISOR—Major Robert Keller, USA, (second from right) confers with 2d Battalion, 49th ARVN Regiment commander Major Kiem on troop support needed during an operation outside Trung Lap. Major Keller is a Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, advisor.—(U.S. Army Photo by SP4 Karl Karlgaard).

COMMANDERS DIGEST

THIS PUBLICATION CONTAINS OFFICIAL INFORMATION, NEWS AND POLICY, DIRECT FROM WASHINGTON AUTHORIZED SOURCES.

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Secretary Laird Challenges North Vietnam on POW Treatment

North Vietnam has consistently claimed through propaganda statements that U.S. prisoners of war are being humanely treated.

Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird challenged that claim Sept. 2 and emphasized that information the Defense Department has received clearly refutes those contentions.

In his statements Secretary Laird said:

"On numerous occasions, I have expressed deep concern regarding the welfare of U.S. servicemen who are prisoners of war or missing in action in Southeast Asia.

"I also have been concerned about the anxiety of the hundreds of families who have lived up to five years with this most difficult problem. Steps have been taken to assure that the relatives of these prisoners and missing in action personnel receive all benefits to which they are entitled.

"In addition, Defense officials personally have met with nearly 1400 wives, parents and other family members to assure them that I have assigned the highest priority to the prisoner matter.

"The Department of Defense has undertaken a continuing review of information received regarding prisoner treatment, including the experience of the three U.S. servicemen recently released by Hanoi . . .

". . . It may be that top government officials in Hanoi are unaware of the shocking conditions within North Vietnamese prison camps. Nevertheless, North Vietnam is accountable to every human being for these flagrant violations of human decency. North Vietnam also is accountable for its failure to release sick and wounded prisoners and for its failure to permit the men to correspond freely with their families. Hanoi knows about these violations.

"Some of our men have been in Communist prison camps for more than five years. We are concerned that the passage of so many months of captivity could have long-term adverse effects on the well-being of our men.

"The nine men freed by North Vietnam in the past five years all have been released from the same prison camp. They personally have seen only a limited number of other prisoners.

"We continue to be concerned for the hundreds of others believed to be held elsewhere. North Vietnam repeatedly has refused to identify these other prisoners, compounding the anxiety and despair of the hundreds of families who now have lived up to five years not knowing whether their loved ones are dead or alive."

Secretary Laird then urged North Vietnam and Viet Cong to release all prisoners of war and said they must immediately:

1—Identify prisoners whom they hold.

2—Release the seriously sick and wounded.

3—Permit impartial inspections of all prisoner of war facilities.

4—Permit the free exchange of mail.

He said these humanitarian actions are required by the Geneva Convention of 1949, which North Vietnam signed in 1957.

HEADS AFROTC—Brigadier General Benjamin B. Cassiday Jr., has assumed command of Air University's Air Force ROTC with headquarters at Maxwell AFB, Ala. As commandant of AFROTC, he heads the Air Force's largest continuing source of officers. General Cassiday also has responsibility for the Air Force Junior ROTC program.

DoD Endorses Extra Money For Lawyers

The Department of Defense supports all but one provision of two House bills which would provide extra money for military lawyers, Assistant Secretary of Defense (M&RA) Roger T. Kelley asserted during recent testimony before a House subcommittee.

The bills, H.R. 4296 and H.R. 9567, are intended to attract and retain judge advocates and law specialists by paying two bonuses and extra money each month.

The first bonus would be paid to lawyers who, after their initial active duty obligation, agree to remain on active duty for at least three, but fewer than six years. The bonus would be figured at the rate of two months basic pay for each additional year of service.

An officer would qualify for a second bonus when he became eligible for voluntary retirement after 20-years service. To be eligible for the money, he would again have to agree to remain on active duty from three to six years.

Under H.R. 9567, an officer would not have to receive the first bonus to be eligible for the second.

However, DoD's support does not extend to the provision providing a second bonus at the voluntary retirement point.

Secretary Kelley told a subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee that the retention problem at that point in an officer's career "is not believed to be sufficiently critical to justify such a measure."

The extra money each month would be $50 for each judge advocate in paygrades 0-1 through 0-3, $150 for those in paygrades 0-4 and 0-5, and $200 for paygrades above 0-5.

U.S. Policy in Asia

Changes In U.S. Foreign Policy – I

In a major foreign policy speech on Sept. 5, Under Secretary of State Elliot L. Richardson discussed the over-all strategies and objectives of American foreign policy in "a distinct new era," pointing out some fundamental changes in course, emphasis and direction. Part I of excerpts from his speech, below, deals with our Asian policy. Part II, on East-West Relations, will appear in a forthcoming issue.

I would like to talk to you today about the foreign policy of the Nixon administration. It has been taking shape for seven or eight months now, a sufficient and appropriate time to make some observations on its overall strategies and objectives.

American foreign policy has entered upon a distinct new era, one marked by some quite fundamental changes in course, emphasis, and direction. Definite long range goals are being set against which the wisdom of shorter range decisions can be judged. . . . Under the President's direction a cohesive and dynamic new policy is being crafted to fit the requirements of changed circumstances.

To make clearer where we are going, let's take a quick backward look at where we have been.

Having added, at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, a new dimension to war in World War II, the United States could not in its aftermath escape a new dimension of responsibility for peace. During the decade of the fifties, therefore, we extended the protection afforded by our capacity for massive retaliation over most of the free world, organizing in the process a number of regional alliances.

Wars of Insurgency

On the whole the system has worked—and is still working—to deter massive or blatant aggression. By the end of the fifties, however, it began to be apparent that the capacity for massive retaliation was not an answer to small, conventional wars; it followed that wars of insurgency, abetted by Communist organizers and aided by Communist arms, could become instruments of Communist aggression.

There was good reason, moreover, to doubt that our allies and friends could defend themselves against such wars by themselves; without the threat of American military intervention there was a risk that they would fall under Communist domination. And so in the early sixties we moved to close this "loophole" in our security system. Vietnam was a logical, if not inevitable, product of this policy.

Now that the sixties are ending, we have come to see in sharper focus the hard realities which affect American capacity to help our friends and allies combat insurgency, whether or not externally assisted. Fortunately, at the same time, other circumstances have so changed as to restrict the kinds of help that are needed. Both of these factors have important implications for U.S. policy.

Experience in Vietnam

The Vietnam experience has made clear the difficulties involved in applying a policy of American intervention in

'We cannot, it now seems clear, do the job of fighting insurgency for someone else.'

insurgency wars. It has demonstrated that the effectiveness of any government, even with our help, in controlling insurgency is dependent on the broadbased support of its own people. And this in turn has underlined the importance for any such government of domestic programs responsive to the social demands upon which insurgency feeds.

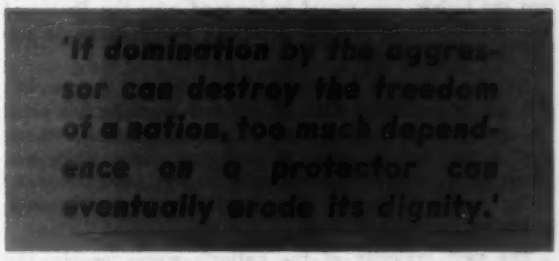
We cannot, it now seems clear, do the job of fighting

insurgency for someone else. We cannot provide the indigenous will and resolution, or the toughness and durability that are needed if this kind of warfare is to be waged successfully.

Foremost, meanwhile, among the developments making dependency on American help less necessary has been the growth in strength and confidence of the newly independent nations, particularly those of Asia. Since emerging from colonialism, these nations have shown a growing capacity to protect their independence. Despite troubling growing pains, population problems, and economic difficulties, their demonstrated nationalist ardor, regardless of their particular ideology or form of government, makes outside domination difficult to accomplish and harder to maintain.

U.S. Policy in the Future

In the light of these developments, the President has made clear that the nature of our assistance to nations threatened by internal subversion will hereafter depend on the realities of each separate situation. In some cases


'If domination by the aggressor can destroy the freedom of a nation, too much dependence on a protector can eventually erode its dignity.'

assistance in economic and political development may be enough. In other cases aid in the form of training and equipment may be necessary.

But the job of countering insurgency in the field is one which must be conducted by the government concerned, making use of its popular support, its resources, and its men. Large-scale intervention from abroad is, of course, something else again and must be considered against the backdrop of the total obligations and interests of the American people.

This, in essence, was the message the President carried to the nations of Asia. It was a message of support and encouragement of their new strength and nascent regional awakening and cooperation.

Our Commitments in Asia

The President stressed that United States commitments in Asia remain unchanged, and that we will continue to play a role as a Pacific power. But the character of our participation is being updated.

As he said in Bangkok:

"Our determination to honor our commitments is fully consistent with our conviction that the nations of Asia can and must increasingly shoulder the responsibility for achieving peace and progress in the area.

"The challenge to our wisdom is to support the Asian countries' efforts to defend and develop themselves, without attempting to take from them the responsibilities which should be theirs.

"For if domination by the aggressor can destroy the freedom of a nation, too much dependence on a protector can eventually erode its dignity."

OUR ASIAN POLICY

Recent Statements by President Nixon

Both geography and common interest link the United States with the nations of Southeast Asia. We recognize the Pacific Ocean not as a barrier but as a bridge. We recognize also that whether peace can be maintained in Asia and the Pacific will determine whether peace can be maintained in the world, and we recognize here in Asia the beginnings of patterns of dynamic development that can be of enormous significance.

What we seek for Asia is a community of free nations able to go their own way and seek their own destiny with whatever cooperation we can provide —a community of independent Asian countries, each maintaining its own traditions and yet each developing through mutual cooperation. In such an arrangement, we stand ready to play a responsible role in accordance with our commitments and basic interests.

The greatest problem before us is not the war in Vietnam, but the bringing about of a dynamic set of international relationships which guarantee peace and progress. This cannot be done by the United States alone; it must be a cooperative effort. We must contribute to relationships by which the peoples of the area can master their challenges and shape their future.—*Bangkok, Thailand, July 28, 1969*

* * *

The pursuit of peace means building a structure of stability within which the rights of each nation are respected: the rights of national independence, of self-determination, the right to be secure within its own borders and to be free from intimidation.

This structure of stability can take many forms. Some may choose to join in formal alliances; some may choose to go their own independent way.

What matters is not how peace is preserved, but that it be preserved; not the formal structure of treaties, but the informal network of common ideals and common purposes that together become a fabric of peace.—*New Delhi, India, July 31, 1969*

* * *

Asian hands must shape the Asian future. This is true, for example, with respect to economic aid, for it must be related to the total pattern of a nation's life. It must support the unique aspirations of each people. Its purpose is to encourage self-reliance, not dependence.—*Lahore, Pakistan, August 1, 1969*

Sec. Packard Cites Progress of Defense Programs

(Continued from Page 1)

zealous, but there is nothing wrong with this that living a little longer will not solve.

The young people that I know best at the present time are those in our armed forces. I cannot praise them too highly.

I know what President Nixon meant when he used the words, "one of America's finest hours," with reference to our men in Vietnam. If you could hear, as I do every day, tales of the courage, the dedication, the self-sacrifice, the compassion, the generosity that our men in Vietnam are exhibiting, you would understand why the President was moved, while visiting American troops there, to use the phrase he chose.

No one, whatever his feeling about why or how we are fighting in Southeast Asia, should feel anything but pride and gratitude toward the gallant young Americans there. And it may not be amiss to note that there, white and black Americans set an example for the home front by living and working and fighting together in harmony, in mutual respect and trust.

The vast majority of the nation's young people, the kind whom I have been describing, the kind of young people in the uniform of their country, receive too little notice. There is, on the other hand, a surfeit of publicity for the nihilistic minority whose aim is destruction and whose tactics are threats, violence, and disorder. These tactics have no place in the United States where the Constitution guarantees orderly procedures for peaceful change. Above all, they have no place on the university campus where reason—not violence—ought to dwell.

Knowing that the disrupters do not speak for their generation, I am less disturbed about their antics than I am about certain currents of public opinion that in the long term could have more serious consequences for the nation. There is a danger that national defense will be neglected in the future, and this danger is heightened by irresponsible attacks on the nation's military forces.

President Nixon noted some of the disturbing current tendencies in his commencement address at the Air Force Academy in June when he said,

> "It is open season on the armed forces. Military programs are ridiculed as needless, if not deliberate, waste. The military profession is derided in some of the best circles. Patriotism is considered by some to be a backward, unfashionable fetish of the uneducated and unsophisticated. Nationalism is hailed and applauded as a panacea for the ills of every nation —except the United States."

We all should remember that twice in the lifetime of the generation to which I belong our nation has suffered grievously as a result of irrational reaction against our military forces. In the 1930's, and again in the late 1940's, our military capability was reduced too far. In the wars that followed each of these experiences, the nation paid, in both American lives and American resources, the frightful price of unpreparedness.

The campaign against the military has had repercussions on the campus—notably in protest against the ROTC. At Loyola, which boasts one of the best ROTC units in the Air Force, the relationship between the university and the military has been exemplary. At some other universities, our experience has been far different. In a few, the climate has become so inhospitable that we have had to terminate ROTC programs.

I view these developments with dismay. The ROTC furnishes about half of the new officers commissioned each year. Without it, we would be deprived of the leavening influence that these young men fresh from civilian educational institutions bring to the armed forces. And without it, an important link between the military and the schools of the nation would be broken.

As one reads the nation's periodicals and newspapers —and listens to the hearings of some of the Congressional committees—one can easily get the impression that the Department of Defense does nothing right. We do have some problems—and whenever you have an organization as large as the Department of Defense with 3.5 million military people and over a million civilians, there will always be cases where people make mistakes. Unfortunately, it is only the mistakes that make the headlines, and mistakes are fair game for Congressional hearings. The Pentagon has also done a lot of things right, and, in order to give some balance to the discussion, these are the things I would like to talk to you about.

I submit that the Department of Defense should be judged in terms of its essential function—providing the armed strength to keep the nation and its citizens secure against all external threats—to protect our citizens and vital interests—and to meet our obligations to support our friends throughout the world.

The Department of Defense has served this country well in each of these all-important areas of responsibility.

In the final analysis, it has been the Armed Forces of our country, including our strategic nuclear capability, which has kept Western Europe free. Our military capability has preserved the freedom of the peoples of West Berlin—of South Korea—of Taiwan—and even with our anguish about our involvement in South Vietnam—American military forces there have eliminated the threat of a Communist military victory, which was imminent when they were dispatched there in force in 1965.

The Defense Department has maintained the military strength to enable this country to meet its international responsibilities well—and to deter an all-out attack on both the United States and its Allies.

Our critics, in fact, have complained about an excess amount of strength. I submit to you it is infinitely better to have a little too much than not quite enough.

Two further common criticisms of the military estab-

lishment are that our strength is being used for the wrong purposes (as in Vietnam, some would say), or that this strength is purchased at too heavy a cost.

Discussing the first of these two criticisms would take me far from the topics of this address. It is important, however, to remember that the use to which our military strength is put is not determined by the Department of Defense, but rather by the White House and on Capitol Hill.

Those who say defense costs too much sometimes are referring to waste and inefficiency. I grant that there is need for improvement in the efficiency of our operations —in our weapons systems procurement procedures—and in other areas. There is waste and inefficiency which must be eliminated, and I will speak a little later of some of the things we are doing toward this end.

Sometimes those who regard defense costs as excessive are arguing that defense absorbs so much of the nation's output that not enough is left for urgent domestic objectives such as health, education, and welfare. This complaint is exaggerated. Defense spending amounts to about 8 per cent of the nation's Gross National Product, and it is shrinking, not growing. Those who allege that defense gobbles up a major part of the increases in federal revenues or expenditures have not examined the facts. Fiscal Year 1969, which ended last June 30, brought an increase in federal revenues of $35 billion above the previous year. Federal spending was up $6 billion. Defense spending in this year increased by about $500 million while federal expenditure for health, education, and welfare went up by $6 billion.

My purpose here tonight, however, is not to refute the critics. Rather, I want to point out a few of the positive things about the Defense Department that the critics seem to miss. I limit myself to five things that we're doing right.

First, we are progressing in our efforts to train and equip the forces of South Vietnam to assume greater combat responsibility, which permit reduction of American forces in Southeast Asia. Since the present Administration assumed office, building up the strength of the South Vietnamese has had first priority. As a result, the replacement of American troops is under way.

This is a break from the policy of the past that dictated a constant increase in American forces in the theater of combat and assumption by the United States of the major responsibility for the conduct of the war.

We shall not leave South Vietnam in the lurch. We continue to provide a strong and adequate shield against escalation from the North. But, as the combat capability of the South Vietnamese forces continues to grow, the war will become less and less an American war.

Hanoi has responded negatively to our repeated and generous peace offers. While we continue to seek to end the war by negotiation, the policy of Vietnamization is not being held up awaiting a breakthrough in the Paris talks. It is moving forward.

Second, we are progressing in our effort to bring the Defense budget under better control. As a result of painstaking review of that budget, Secretary Laird has announced preparations for cuts during the current fiscal year which will reduce spending by more than $4 billion below the level recommended by President Johnson. This reduction, though somewhat more abrupt than we would like it to be will not seriously reduce our military capability, but will provide added resources for non-defense needs of the country, and will reduce inflationary pressures.

In order to keep the defense budget in proper relationship to non-defense national objectives, we are working on detailed plans for our post-Vietnam forces, and these plans include close control of expenditures as our involvement in Vietnam is lessened.

One of the most important innovations of the new Administration is the recent appointment of a Blue Ribbon Panel headed by Gilbert W. Fitzhugh, Chairman of the Board of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, which is engaging in a thorough study of the mission, organization, and operation of the Defense Department. From the results of this study, the first of its kind in more than a decade, we expect valuable guidance in effecting reorganization of structure and improvement in operation. We are fortunate in the exceptional talent assembled to serve as members of this Panel.

Third, we are doing a number of things to improve the procurement system for major weapons. There has been substantial waste in devoting resources to the development of weapons which Defense officials have concluded at some later stage in the process should not be deployed. To avoid this kind of false start in the future, we have instituted new procedures to determine what new weapons systems are required. We are proceeding to make sure that we have eliminated as many technical uncertainties as possible before full-scale development is begun, and that development is complete before production is started.

We are placing more responsibility on the program manager and cutting out some of the layers of managers that have been looking over each others' shoulders.

We have instituted new reporting procedures so that both the Department of Defense and the Congress can verify accomplishment and detect at an early stage lags in performance or excessive costs.

All this may sound dull, but let me assure you that the changes in procuring weapons which I have been describing are important. They will guard against profligate use of the taxpayers' money.

Fourth, we are progressing in reforming the management of manpower in the Department of Defense. We are keenly aware of the fact that people are our most important asset.

We have given particular attention to the problems of ROTC and have worked closely with the universities and colleges of the nation to rectify any shortcomings in the present program.

President Nixon has asked Congress to change the selective service system so that a young man will normally be subject to the draft for only one year of his life and selectees will be chosen by lottery. These changes, along

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Statement By The President

(September 16, 1969)

After careful consideration with my senior civilian and military advisors and in full consultation with the Government of Vietnam, I have decided to reduce the authorized troop ceiling in Vietnam to 484,000 by December 15. This compares with the ceiling of 549,500 which existed when this Administration took office. Under the newly authorized troop ceiling, a minimum of 60,000 troops will have been withdrawn from Vietnam by December 15.*

Since coming into office, my Administration has made major efforts to bring an end to the war:

—We have renounced an imposed military solution.

—We have proposed free elections organized by Joint Commissions under international supervision.

—We have offered the withdrawal of U.S. and allied forces over a 12-month period.

—We have declared that we would retain no military bases.

—We have offered to negotiate supervised cease-fires under international supervision to facilitate the process of mutual withdrawal.

—We have made clear that we would settle for the *de facto* removal of North Vietnamese forces so long as there are guarantees against their return.

—We and the Government of South Vietnam have announced that we are prepared to accept any political outcome which is arrived through free elections.

—We are prepared to discuss the 10-point program of the other side together with plans put forward by the other parties.

—In short, the only item which is not negotiable is the right of the people of South Vietnam to determine their own future free of outside interference.

I reiterate all these proposals today.

The withdrawal of 60,000 troops is a significant step.

The time for meaningful negotiations has therefore arrived.

I realize that it is difficult to communicate across the gulf of five years of war. But the time has come to end this war. Let history record that at this critical moment, both sides turned their faces toward peace rather than toward conflict and war.

*Actually, the total reduction in authorized ceiling strength amounts to 65,500. But within the authorized ceiling, all units are shown at 100% strength. In actual practice, most units are slightly below full strength, so that actual strength normally is less than the authorized ceiling by one or two percent.

DoD Programs . . .

(Continued from Page 7)

with others which the President has proposed, will eliminate the major inequities of the present selective service system. For a more remote future, we are studying the possibility of making the military a completely volunteer force.

Fifth, we are progressing in using the resources of the Defense Department in a vigorous campaign against such evils as poverty, ignorance, and discrimination. Secretary Laird has given direction and emphasis to such activities by creating within the Department of Defense the Domestic Action Council which stimulates and guides this aspect of our work. It is impossible in a few words to convey adequately the scope of our activity that contributes directly to the solution of the nation's social and economic problems. We have done much to eliminate discrimination in housing. We run one of the nation's largest school systems in non-military subjects and probably the biggest occupational skill training program in the world. In securing the goods we need, we give special attention to procurement from small business firms and minority enterprise. In addition, we have begun to make our facilities available to disadvantaged youth of nearby communities for learning and recreation.

Millions of young Americans have secured through service in the armed forces the chance to learn that was denied them in civilian life. Millions, as a result of their military service, leave the armed forces with the skills needed to pursue successfully a civilian career or with the basic education required for continuation of their studies in civilian institutions as well as with an attitude that I can commend to my friends in business and industry. For millions of young Americans, the promise of equal opportunity has been made real as a result of their service in the armed forces.

Our Constitution, the signing of which we are gathered here to commemorate, reflected the cautious attitude of eighteenth-century America toward military power. It established civilian control over the military forces and sought thereby to guarantee that the military would always be the servants of the American people.

No military leader of our country would want it any other way. The subordination of military to civilian authority is fully recognized and wholeheartedly supported by those who wear the uniform.

On the other hand, those who framed the Constitution recognized that the system of government which it established required military power if it was to endure. They selected, after all, as their presiding officer at the Constitutional Convention, the man who had been commander in chief of the armed forces in the Revolutionary War. . . .

The proudest responsibility of the armed forces is to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. They will continue to discharge this responsibility with fidelity. And this vast country shall remain one nation under this Constitution as long as our armed forces discharge this responsibility with the trust and confidence of the people whose freedom they guard.

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